



# **Idaho Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)**

## **Annual Report 2017-2018**

**Brian Darcy, Chair**

**Ruth Garfield, Vice-Chair**

## **The Purpose of SEAP**

In accordance with Section 300.167-300.169 of the final regulations of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004* (IDEA), each state is required to establish and maintain an advisory council for the purpose of providing guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities.

The responsibilities of Idaho's Special Education Advisory Panel, as defined by IDEA are as follows:

- Advise the State Department of Education (SDE) of unmet needs in the education of children with disabilities;
- Comment publicly on rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- Advise the SDE in developing evaluations and reporting data to the U.S. Secretary of Education;
- Advise the SDE in developing and implementing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act;
- Advise the SDE in developing and implementing policies relating to the funding and/or coordination of services of students with disabilities;
- Advise the SDE on the education of students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons; and
- Advise the SDE on its comprehensive system of personnel development function to aid in recruiting, preparing, and retaining qualified personnel.

## **SEAP Membership Requirements**

### **Categories of Required Representation**

Excerpts from IDEA 20 U.S.C. 1412(a) (21) (A) (B) (D)

*(21) State Advisory Panel –*

*(A) In General – The State has established and maintains an advisory panel for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State.*

*(B) Membership – Such advisory panel shall consist of members appointed by the Governor or any other official authorized under State law to make such appointments, be representative of the State population, and be composed of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities, including --*

1. Parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26);
2. Individuals with disabilities;
3. Teachers;
4. Representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel;
5. State and local education officials, including officials who carry out activities under Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.);
6. Administrators of programs for children with disabilities;
7. Representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities;
8. Representatives of private schools and public charter schools;
9. Not less than one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities;
10. A representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care; and
11. Representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies.

Special rule. A majority of the members of the panel must be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26).  
(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(21)(B) and (C))

# Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

## Membership List 2017-2018

First Name	Last Name	Term	Email Address	Representation
Shiloh	Blackburn	2016-2019	<a href="mailto:Celtic_me2000@yahoo.com">Celtic_me2000@yahoo.com</a>	Self Advocate
Amy	Clark	2015-2018	<a href="mailto:AClark@cdaschools.org">AClark@cdaschools.org</a>	SPED Director – Coeur d’Alene SD
Brian	Darcy	*2015-2018 Chair	<a href="mailto:brian.darcy@iesdb.org">brian.darcy@iesdb.org</a>	Program Administrator State Education (IESDB)
Brandy	Funk	*2015-2018	<a href="mailto:brandy.funk@gmail.com">brandy.funk@gmail.com</a>	Parent (Middleton)
Ruth	Garfield	*2015-2018 Vice Chair	<a href="mailto:ruth@famieliestogether.org">ruth@famieliestogether.org</a>	Parent Transition Services
Robin	Greenfield	*2014-2018	<a href="mailto:rgreen@uidaho.edu">rgreen@uidaho.edu</a>	Program Administrator Higher Education (U of I)
Jenn	Halladay	2015-2018	<a href="mailto:jenn_halladay_4@hotmail.com">jenn_halladay_4@hotmail.com</a>	Parent (Kuna)
Jacob	Head	2016-2019	<a href="mailto:Headjacobe@gmail.com">Headjacobe@gmail.com</a>	Self Advocate
Angela	Lindig	*2015-2018	<a href="mailto:angela@ipulidaho.org">angela@ipulidaho.org</a>	Parent Agency Related Services
Alison	Lowenthal	2015-2018	<a href="mailto:Alison.Lowenthal@vr.idaho.gov">Alison.Lowenthal@vr.idaho.gov</a>	Vocational Rehab
Tonya	Maestretti	2015-2018	<a href="mailto:tkmaestretti@hotmail.com">tkmaestretti@hotmail.com</a>	Parent (Boise)
Rebecca	Maldonano	2015-2018	<a href="mailto:becky.maldonado@vallivue.org">becky.maldonado@vallivue.org</a>	SPED Teacher – Vallivue SD
Jill	Mathews	2017-2020	<a href="mailto:jmathews@sde.idaho.gov">jmathews@sde.idaho.gov</a>	SDE Family and Community Engagement
Ted	Oparnico	*2016-2019	<a href="mailto:toparnic@idoc.idaho.gov">toparnic@idoc.idaho.gov</a>	State Agency (IDOC)
Suzanne	Peck	2015-2018	<a href="mailto:speck@sde.idaho.gov">speck@sde.idaho.gov</a>	SDE VISTA/Rural/ Homeless Coordinator
Amanda	Peña	2016-2019	<a href="mailto:penaA@dhw.idaho.gov">penaA@dhw.idaho.gov</a>	Agency Related Services
Lisa	Perry	2015-2018	<a href="mailto:lperry@connectionseducation.com">lperry@connectionseducation.com</a>	Charter School – Inspire Charter
Marni	Porath	2015-2018	<a href="mailto:mcporath@hotmail.com">mcporath@hotmail.com</a>	Parent (Twin Falls)
Debbie	Siegel	2017-2020	<a href="mailto:Debbie.siegel@idjc.idaho.gov">Debbie.siegel@idjc.idaho.gov</a>	State Agency (DJC)
Richelle	Tierney	2015-2018 Secretary	<a href="mailto:tierneyric@gmail.com">tierneyric@gmail.com</a>	Parent (Nampa)

\*Indicates second term

April 2018

## **SEAP Priorities 2017-2018**

*For the purpose of providing policy guidance to the Idaho State Department of Education with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities, the following priorities were established for 2017-2018.*

**Priority 1: Assist the SDE with the State Systematic Improvement Plan (SSIP) in areas related to:**

- ❖ **Identify community partners and strategies to provide schools with information about SSIP logic model.**

**Outcomes:** 1) An ongoing workgroup was established that gathered together resources throughout Idaho that can promote literacy activities and become resources for SSIP;

2) The workgroup focused on inclusion in school settings and discussions from the groups will assist with improving inclusive practices in the SSIP logic model;

3) Workgroups assisted SSIP in creating a resource for schools that will help determine if they have a school culture of inclusive practices.

Providing assistance to SSIP staff will remain an ongoing priority.

**Priority 2: Assist the SDE with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in areas related to:**

- ❖ **An updated form of “No Child Left Behind” Act where accountability is shifting from Federal to a State and Local control in regards to giving states more flexibility on how data is collected on student success.**

**Outcome:** 1) Discussion on how this will look for the state and how students with disabilities success will be measured in regards to the ESSA.

This topic will be an ongoing priority for SEAP when further discussion is presented by the SDE.

### **Priority 3: Assisting the SDE with Parent Survey:**

- ❖ **Working with TAESE to meet the Federal requirements of parent involvement through parent survey.**

**Outcome:** 1) Data from the changes that were made to the parent survey in 2013 are starting to provide SEAP with usable data. Further discussion on setting different target rates was discussed and will be ongoing.

This topic will be an ongoing priority for SEAP as it is a federally mandated priority.

### **Priority 4: Assisting the SDE with new Significant Disproportionality law:**

**Working with data and reporting department to determine that all children who require Special Education services be appropriately identified and supported.**

**Outcome: 1)** Discussion about supporting the SDE in complying with new Federal Regulations which are:

#### **Summary:**

- (1)** Establish a standard methodology between states;
- (2)** Clarify that States must address significant disproportionality in disciplinary actions;
- (3)** Clarify requirements for the review and revision of policies, practices, and procedures when significant disproportionality is found; and
- (4)** Require that LEAs identify and address the factors contributing to significant disproportionality as a part of Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS)

This topic will be an ongoing priority for SEAP as it is a new Federal Initiative to promote equity under IDEA.

## **SEAP Highlights**

### **2017 - 2018**

The Idaho Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) met for four regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year. Executive Committee meetings were held August 29, 2017, October 31, 2017, January 30, 2018, and May 2, 2018. Full panel meetings were held September 11, 2017, November 13, 2017, February 12, 2018, and May 14, 2018. These panel meetings are open to the public and meeting minutes are posted at <http://sde.idaho.gov/sped/seap>

During the period covered in this report, Advisory Panel members participated in the following activities:

#### **General Activities of the Panel**

- \* Participated in four meetings to carry out the work of the Panel.
- \* Received updates from the ISDE concerning the Annual Performance Plan (APR) and the State Systematic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and provided assistance on providing parents information and general information on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Updates were also received from the Data and Reporting Department regarding progress made on Significant Disproportionality.
- \* Reviewed dispute resolution data from the SDE Dispute Resolution Coordinator.
- \* Reviewed Parent Report for ISAT.
- \* Participated in Professional Development.
- \* Participated in workgroups targeting SEAP priorities.
- \* Received updates on proposed changes to the Special Ed manual and new guidance documents.
- \* Received updates on the Alternate Assessment.
- \* Conducted election of new officers.
- \* Regularly updated on panel members organizations and activities.

#### **Executive Committee**

- \* Reviewed new member applications and made recommendations for SEAP membership.
- \* Set future SEAP meeting dates for September 10, 2018, November 12, 2018, February 11, 2019, and May 13, 2019. All meetings will be held at the Idaho State Department of Education.